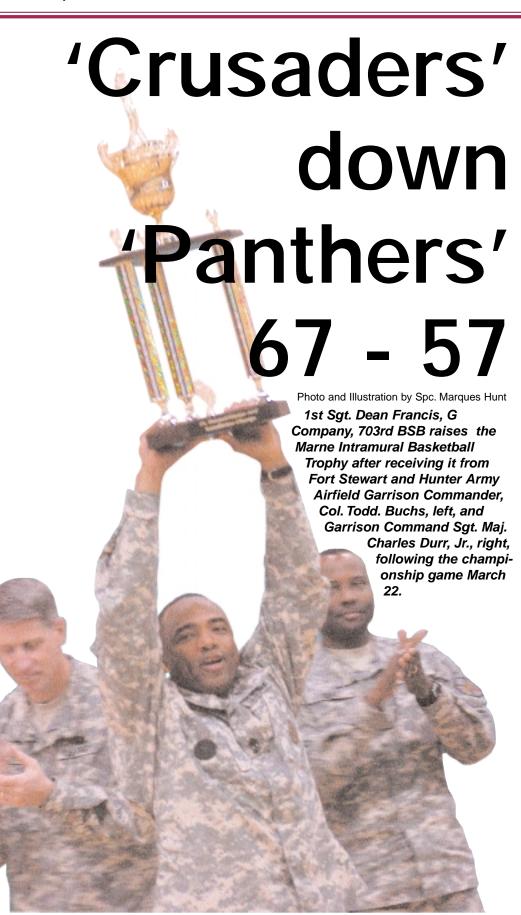


**Training at Hunter** Gym makes a splash, See 1B

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March 29, 2007



## 3rd HBCT arrives in Kuwait

Spc. Ben Hutto 3rd BCT Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait - The 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team's long anticipated deployment to Iraq is in its initial stage as S oldiers have moved to Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Approximately 3,300 Soldiers from the Sledgehammer Brigade are in their first leg of the deployment in support of Operation Iraqi

During their initial period at Camp Buehring, Sledgehammer Soldiers participated in several training events in preparation for the movement north to Iraq. All training events were designed to cover every aspect of what the Soldiers might encounter during their time in Iraq.

After almost 24 hours of travel, Soldiers arrived at the camp for a series of classes, including an orientation to the camp and administrative aspects of the deployment, which covered topics like S oldier pay issues and leave. A class on the current improvised explosive device threat was also conducted.

In the days to follow, Soldiers of the 3rd HBCT attended classes and training on counter insurgency operations, medical aid, military operations in urban terrain, and close quarters com-

Classes on vehicle roll over drills were also conducted. After being given instruction on what to do if a roll over were to occur, Soldiers literally found themselves upside down in the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer, a simulated vehicle rollover device.

"The training was productive," said Chief Warrant Officer Joaquin Serrano, Headquarters Company, 203rd Forward Support Battalion, 3rd HBCT. "This is the first time some of these Soldiers have been out here so it's something new, something they want to get involved with so they can get a taste of what it's really like.'

During the MOUT training, Soldiers maneuvered into a mock house and encountered targets operated by a control station for the element

See 3BCT -

## Marne Assault takes it to enemy

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills CAB Public Affairs

The 3rd Infantry Division has traditionally been all about tanks, ground troops and tank busting AH-64 Apaches. It was originally a mechanized force, designed to fight in a wide open frontline-style battle with an opposing army of equal or even greater force.

Just like anything, though, the 3rd Inf. Div. has changed and the Combat Aviation Brigade now brings another tool for the combatant commanders to use - air assault.

Air assault was mainly developed during the Vietnam War to get troops into difficult areas quickly and efficiently while battling an enemy made up primarily of light infantry and insurgents. Mainly using utility helicopters, in those days the UH-1 "Huey," and now the UH-60 Blackhawk, the Soldiers are carried to the battle, either behind enemy lines, or straight to the enemy if there are no lines.

Air assault is used extensively by the 101st

Airborne Division from Fort Campbell, Ky. To make the 3rd Inf. Div. more able to strike quickly and effectively the Army repositioned some of that capability from the 101st Abn. to the 3rd

"We took a slice of a (101st Abn.) fully air

patch on the shoulder," said Chief Warrant Officer Glen Cassle, B Co., 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment. Cassle's unit started out at Fort Campbell as the 9th Battalion, 101st Aviation. To follow

assault aviation battalion and put a different

along with the reorganization of the CAB, 9/101st Avn. was reflagged to 4/3 Avn. in 2004, and sent to Iraq with the CAB in 2005. Before going to Iraq the 3rd Inf. Div. infantry

units had to prepare for this new way of getting to the fight. "At that time," said Chief Warrant Officer Mark Mahe, Co. B, 4/3 Avn., "the CAB had only the (general support aviation) element besides

See CAB

the Apaches."

Page 16A

## Rails keep division on track

**Kurt Wolfe** Frontline Staff

When troops deploy, they simply get on a plane and fly. It's not all that complicated. At least it's not as complicated as getting all the required military vehicular equipment transferred. Couple that difficulty with the fact that the 2nd Brigade is deploying at about the same time that the 4th Bde. prepares to train with the National Training Center, at Fort. Irwin, Calif.

This ominous duty falls to a team of civilian Department of Defense employees, civilian contractors, and Soldiers working through the Department of Logistics.

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Bawbarwick, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Bde. oversees all 4th Brigade vehicular transport.

"I would be lying if I said there was no pressure," Bawbarwick said. "We have two brigades moving to two different places at the same time. It is a big time crunch. But we can do it. Everyone works as a great team effort - civilians, contractors, DoD employees and the Soldiers are doing a great job here."

Civilian employees are working extensive overtime to get this job done.

"The civilian contractors are being used because of this time crunch," Bawbarwick said. "Soldiers can do this, but we want soldiers to be focusing on training and also on important leave time with their families before deploying. We do everything we can to the best of our ability. We train everyday, and while this has pushed us to our limits, we continue to do our mission until we are told not to."

As big and complex as the system is, it runs efficiently and quickly. Francis Rivera sees to that. Rivera is the Transportation Team Specialist and supervises all work between Soldiers and civilians.

"It originates with the company-level unit movement officer and from the units motor pool," says Rivera. "They prep all equipment with appropriate labels and tie down equipment. Then the movement control team inspects all incoming equipment. The inspection process takes only two to three min-

If there is a problem with any equipment, it goes to the "frustration," area. Problems generally involve minor problems having to do with hitches, tie downs, or labeling. The unit fixes the problem and within minutes the vehicle is lined up for loading.

Within four days an entire train is loaded and moving, either to Irwin, or to the docks for shipment to Iraq.

Every vehicle, from the biggest of rigs - tanks to humvees, is driven carefully and slowly up the ramp and down the long train until they reach their designated car. With meticulous care civilian contractor's drive, guide, and tie down the huge vehicles. Every action is checked and rechecked. These freight cars might have to stop suddenly and hundreds of thousands of tons are in the balance.

It is clear that the job is an issue of pride, especially to Richmond Dykes a civilian contractor who drives the big rigs onto the trains.

See Rails Page 8A

### 'Charlie Med' works hard to save lives

Spc. Ricardo Branch 1st BCT Public Affairs

life in war, but thanks to the efforts of military medical personnel at Camp Ramadi's Charlie Med, wounded servicemembers have better chances of surviving their injuries.

Inside the one-story medical building, 2nd Lt. Ann Walls, Company C, 3rd Brigade Support Battalion treatment platoon leader, and Soldiers from her section treat three patients following a mortar blast earlier in the day at Combat Outpost Falcon.

"This place can go from real busy to real quiet in a matter of hours," said the 23-year-old Evansville, Ind., native.

"Some days you have a lot of casualties and the workload gets very hectic but we manage." At any given day, the number of patients can call) a day with a wide range of things," Walls

RAMADI, Iraq - Casualties are a tragic fact of said. "We've had to treat everything from IED (bomb) blasts, mortar fire, to gunshot wounds. Whatever they get out there, we'll treat." She said that seeing people hurt and in pain

"We see about 30 to 40 people (including sick

vary depending on what happens in the city.

is the hardest part of the job and that makes for the toughest days because her and her medics know the injured patients will never be the same again.

"It's hard when you see the innocent people hurt," Walls said. "We get children, little boys and girls, who get hurt a lot, which makes you work real hard to make them feel better."

Capt. Scott Mras, Co. C, 3rd BSB commander, said despite the huge work-load often demanded of his medics, his Soldiers are ready for

See 1BCT



Sgt. 1st Class Tami Reiman

Col. Thomas James, 4th BCT commander addresses the Soldiers of 4th Bde., 3rd Inf. Div. STB and HHC, 4th BCT, Monday. See Story on Page 3A.



**New barracks** for Rangers-See 13A

Share the fellowship at the Easter Sunrise Service April 8- See Page 1B

**Teamwork** helps Marne **Division** deploy- see 11A



## Marne 6 Sends

# Division HQ hits the ground running

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch 3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

Greetings from the headquarters of Task Force Marne here in Baghdad, Iraq! I want you each to know that we are all fine and we are working hard. You can be very proud of your magnificent Marne Division Soldiers yet again. On this third deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers are joining with other coalition forces in a bold plan to secure this nation's capitol.

We are grateful to the many members of the Multinational Corps (Iraq) and Multinational Force (Iraq) who have welcomed us with open arms. They have pledged their support to us as we begin our challenging mission. Thank you.

Folks, it's been a busy time. We entered Iraq through Kuwait and immediately began establishing our headquarters on the massive Victory Base complex.

Many of us have been here multiple times in the last three years. And I can tell you that what we are seeing on and off this base is truly impressive.

There is traffic on the highways around the city. Street lights glow in the cool nights. There is commerce and progress in many sectors despite the threat of violence.

The quality of life for Soldiers is improving each day. And, while we each miss our loved ones, we press on as Soldiers should, with full understanding of our mission and the examples of those who came before us.

Near here is the place where on April 4, 2003 a fellow Dog Face Soldier,

Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, laid down his life in a heroic manner. For his actions he was awarded a Medal of Honor - our division's 51st recipient in nine decades.

We are humbled by the example of sacrifice he set and committed to succeeding in



our mission on his behalf along with the thousands of other servicemembers who have fought and given so much in this war.

Today, our leaders, our noncommissioned officers with all our Soldiers are moving mountains of equipment, installing miles of communication wires and the hardware that is so critical to success.

At the same time we are forging new friendships with Iraqi leaders and our partners in the coalition. There are countless

lessons learned over the last four years and we are adopting the winning practices of our friends here.

Hundreds of miles from here our 1st Brigade Combat Team continues to demon-

strate the highest standards of our Army, earning a great reputation among our allies. We are honored to serve alongside the Raiders.

Soon, our 3rd Brigade Combat Team will arrive and take up their posts in the tough outlands. Their mission will be extremely important. We look forward to serving with them as fellow members of Task Force Marne.

In closing, we send our best wishes to the members of our community there in Coastal Georgia.

Thanks for the continued support as more of our Marne Division, the Combat Aviation Brigade, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, as well as our 4th Brigade Combat Team and Sustainment Brigade prepare for deployments.

Soon, you will see and hear more from our Soldiers thanks to state of the art media communications. Look for us on Marne TV, here in the Frontline, on the worldwide Web, as well as television and radio, right there at home.

Until then, take care and God bless! **ROCK OF THE MARNE!** 

## 13,000-mile walk to support deployed Soldiers



**Sgt. Tanya Polk** *Editor* 

The 3rd Infantry Division wants to show more support to deployed Soldiers. Beginning May 5, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield will be doing just that in a 13,000 - mile Walk to Iraq and Back.

Hosted by the division's family readiness groups, The Walk to Iraq and Back is a team effort to accumulate 13,000 miles, the distance from Georgia to Iraq and back. The Walk to Iraq and Back is not only intended to show support to the Soldiers, but to help build camaraderie and togetherness, foster a healthy lifestyle and decrease stress for waiting families.

"If the Soldiers overseas realize that their families are busy and content over here, and we have programs to keep them interested, and their tension levels (down), then perhaps they can focus more on the mission and worry less on their families," said Amy Lambert, the Forces Command family readiness support assistant. "And that alone is a stress reliever."

The kick-off route will be approximately three miles, but the kick-off course is not the only route that people can walk. Supporters can walk any route of choice and can even opt to run, swim or bike. However, this event is not an individual event.

"We wanted to foster a sense of community, so we're asking for people to walk in teams of at least two," Lambert said.

All miles for each participant count. If you walk a dog, the dog's miles count. If you push a stroller, the child's miles count Lambert said.

All participants who accumulate at least 12 miles will receive a certificate, and those who accumulate at least 25 miles will get a free T-shirt.

The goal is to accumulate all 13,000 miles prior to the 1st Brigade Combat Team's return. To help achieve this goal, FRGs will host group walks throughout the year such as a 4th of July patriots walk, October costume walk, and the morning after New Year's Day walk.

Supporters can turn in their miles in drop boxes placed around post, or they can also email their miles to walk-toiraqandback@gmail.com.

Participants will be able to watch their progress on signs posted at the front gate, Post Exchange and commissary indicating how close they are to Iraq and how close they are to returning, Lambert said.

A final walk will also be held so that supporters can walk the remaining mile together.

"People like to feel like they have a sense of belonging, and this is a really good way to get people out and to feel like they are belonging to something important," Lambert said, "something tangible almost, that they can put their fingers on and say 'when we're done with this walk, the guys are coming home.'"

Join the division to kick off the event on May 5 at 8:30 a.m. in front of Newman Fitness Center. Each supporter at the kick off will receive a free water bottle. You can register at anytime, beginning April 9. Registration forms will be available in the Frontline, as well as at the PX and Commissary, and Army Community Service.

For more information, contact Amy Lambert at 320-5400 or Lt. Col. Ellen Birch, 3rd Inf. Div. rear-detachment commander at 767-4207.

# Honoring servicewomen in 3rd Inf Div history

Sasha McBrayer Fort Stewart Museum

Harriet Quimby (1875 – 1912) was the first American woman to earn her pilot's license and the first woman to fly solo across the English Channel.

She once said, "Everyone asks me 'how it feels to fly.' It feels like riding in a high powered automobile, minus bumping over the rough roads, continually signaling to clear the way and keeping a watchful eye on the speedometer to see that you do not exceed the speed limit..."

During World War II, in the same era that WAVES and SPARS donned military uniforms, the United States also saw the birth of the WAACs and WASPs. The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps began when congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers introduced special legislation in 1941. It was held in limbo for a time, and then in 1942 Rogers followed up with another bill, which was met with harsh criticism.

Few wanted to see women in the Army who were not serving as nurses. However, like the other military branches, the Army also needed to free up as many men to go to the frontlines as it could. So it was May of 1942 that became the WAAC birthday.

Finally, in 1943, the Army completely adopted the WAAC, removing the Auxiliary status and making them just WAC.

The abbreviation was probably as humorous then as it is now, as evident from this WAC song:

Yes, By Cracky Yes, By Cracky, I'm a little WAC-y I'm a little Soldier girl, I live in barracks, best you've ever seen, March to mess, and always keep my shoes clean.

Yes, By Cracky, I'm a little WAC-y

The beautiful and distinctive emblem of the WAC was the bust of Pallas Athene (also known as Athena Nike), the Greek goddess of wisdom, crafts, and victory in battle.

The WASPs (Women Airforce Service Pilots) had their heyday from 1942 through 1944. They were over 1,000 women strong, and were trained to ferry aircraft, test planes, instruct male pilots, and tow targets for anti-aircraft artillery practice.

These fearless pioneers answered their Nation's call and thirty-eight would be killed in action. Some WASPs did their anti-artillery training here at Camp Stewart. Among these was one Helen Wyatt Snapp.

Snapp, a D.C. native, was married to a lieutenant in B Company, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division and veteran of WWII. She joined the WASPs while her husband was fighting overseas.

She served at Liberty Field (now called Wright Field) until December of 1944. Snapp completed over 1,000 flight hours and flew many target missions, towing targets for live fire over Camp Stewart. This remarkable lady remains friends of the Division and of the museum and has been known to visit from time to time.

In contrast to the serious symbol of the WACs, the WASPs wore a cartoon female gremlin originally the brainchild of children's novelist Roald Dahl, and drawn by Walt Disney himself. The mascot was used on a shoulder patch. The 3rd Inf. Div.'s own mascot, Rocky, was also penned by Walt Disney.



Rock of the Marne The Frontline 3A March 29, 2007



# 4th BCT motivated, ready to move out

Sgt. 1st Class Tami Reiman 4th BCT Public Affairs

Less than a month after completing Vanguard Focus, a training exercise at Fort Stewart, 4th Brigade Combat Team Soldiers are ramping up to conduct a training exercise at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., beginning in mid-April.

To ensure the Soldiers are prepared for NTC, they have been conducting individual weapons qualifications, packing up equipment, and rail loading vehicles. More than 800 vehicles were rail loaded last week and the rest of the equipment and containers will be line-hauled.

"We need to get in the mindset not just that we are conducting training, but that we are actually

deploying to Al Ghazi Province,"

Col. Thomas James, 4th BCT commander said as he addressed the Soldiers of 4th Brigade, Special **Troops Battalion and Headquarters** Headquarters Company, 4th BCT March 26 as they prepared to move out for NTC.

"We need to take advantage of the time we have and use what we learn to help us become better everyday. Once we complete NTC, we should each be thinking to ourselves, 'Okay, now I'm ready to go

During the NTC training rotation Soldiers of the 4th BCT will learn the lessons of those who have come before them as they prepare for a tour of duty in Iraq.

"We look at our deployment to Fort Irwin as a chance to rehearse not only our deployment systems,

but also our preparations for combat as we enter a new theater of operation," said Maj. Sean Bernabe, 4th BCT S-3 officer in charge. "This time the new theater

"We need to take advantage of the time we have and use what we learn to help us become better everyday. Once we complete NTC, we should each be thinking to ourselves, 'Okay, now I'm ready to go to war."

> Col. Thomas James 4th BCT commander

will be the Al Ghazi province at Fort company and battalion collective Irwin, and next time it will be Kuwait and then Iraq."

> At NTC Soldiers will participate in the most current and realistic pre-deployment training the Army has to offer.

> > The training 4th BCT Soldiers will

specifically to what the unit is going to be employed to do while

participate in will be catered

**During Vanguard Focus the units** 

focused more on platoon collective training. It was designed as an opportunity to allow platoon leaders and in some cases company commanders to maneuver their units as a collective organization. NTC will go away

from the platoon and focus more on

training, said Bernabe.

Each of the battalions will be tasked to control a portion of the zone out there, and they will have to conduct operations throughout that zone.

The brigade staff will have the opportunity to try and understand everything that is happening in a very large zone and they will plan for future operations.

One of the ways Soldiers will be trained is what is known as lanes training.

Lanes training is a pre-planned scenario that is regulated and intended to test specific aspects of a mission such as reacting to an IED, reacting to a sniper, which are a couple of the lanes Soldiers encountered during Vanguard

The lanes training will take the Soldiers through the process in which the training needs to occur.

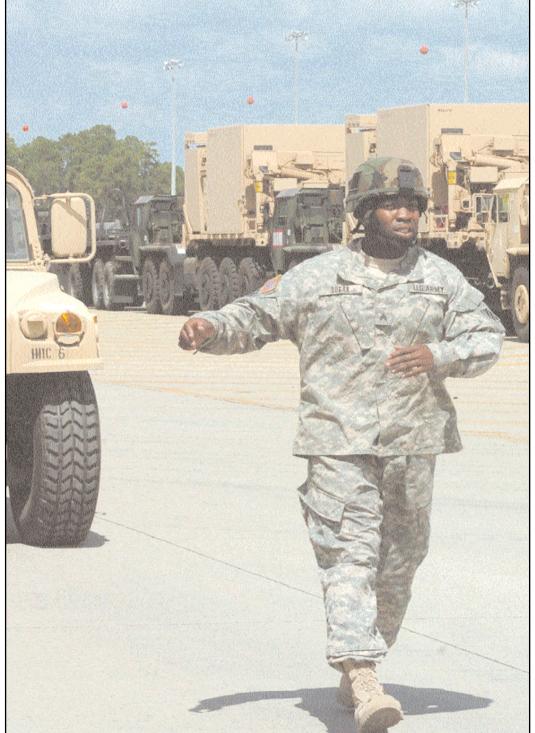
The commanders of the units will receive the mission, begin the proper planning procedure, brief their Soldiers, and carry out the

Afterward an after-action report is conducted to let the Soldiers know what they did right and what they need to improve on.

"The great thing about going to Fort Irwin is we will have a chance to incorporate some of the changes we made since Vanguard Focus," said Bernabe. "We will be able to test them to see if our systems are where we want them to be as we prepare for our deployment to

Left: Sgt. Dameon Dugar, an armorer with HHC 4th BCT, ground guides a humvee during rail load operations Friday at the rail marshalling area. Dugar is a native of South Carolina and

has been in the Army for more than four years. Below: A Soldier from 4th BCT ground guides his vehicle into the rail marshalling. More





## Deployments funding your financial future

Sgt. Lorenda M. Morris 3rd Sust. Bde. PAO

The time has come for us to hug our families goodbye and leave "Marne County" bound for another tour in Iraq. Being deployed isn't always the most enjoyable or convenient experience, but it does present the perfect opportunity to gain (and keep) control of your money.

In addition to all of the extra pay benefits (combat zone tax exemption, hostile fire pay, imminent danger pay, family separation, etc.), we tend to spend less money in-country than at home. Why not take that extra income and make it

If you don't already have a high-yield savings account, get one! If your current bank account is yielding less than five percent interest, you might as well be throwing your money in the trash. You're missing out on extra income that you don't even have to work for.

Talk to your spouse. Make sure that you are both on the same money track. Often the extra income from deployments will disappear before the Soldier even knows they made it, because they fail to set financial goals and limits with those who have access to their money. It's better to get on the same financial page now, then to wait and end up in ruin or worse yet, divorced. Just because you have extra money does not mean that you have to blow it.

For those with children, now would be an excellent time to think about their financial futures. Look into children's accounts. Kids can have checking, savings, and even starter investment accounts. Also, starting a Coverdell Education Savings Account is a good idea. You can contribute up to \$2,000 a year that qualifies for tax-deferred earnings and federal income tax-free qualified withdrawals. A trust fund might be another good option to explore. Knowing that your kids are financially secure is a wonderful feeling.

Take advantage of the Savings Deposit Program during

deployment. You can deposit a total of \$10,000 that earns an annual 10% interest rate, which is compounded quarterly. I would advise that you beat feet over to your finance office for more details.

Now is also an ideal time to fund an individual retirement account. Don't be afraid to talk to a financial advisor. They can help you sort out your retirement goals and pick the IRA that's right for you. Traditional

IRA's offer tax-deferred earnings and potential for taxdeductible contributions (you can claim it your taxes). Roth IRA's also have tax-deferred earnings, but they offer tax-free distribution for retirement. You can contribute up to \$4,000 this year and up to \$5,000 in 2008.

If you don't want to go the IRA way, look into the Thrift Savings Plan. It's the easiest way to save money that I've found. You can do it all through your military pay. You can set how much of your base pay you want to contribute. You can also specify different percentages you want taken from special pay or bonuses. Additionally, you can take out loans from your own funds at an excellent rate. For more information go to www.tsp.gov, or your local finance office.

Most importantly, pay your bills! Don't let your credit cards keep costing you an arm and two legs in interest. Pay them off and put them away. As a matter of fact, I would just lock them up safely at home and leave them behind.

Examine all of your current debt and pay off what's costing you the most first. If it's your car, make sure you contact your financer and let them know that you want to make payments on the principal balance of your loan. Otherwise, they may apply any extra payments directly to interest, and that kind of defeats the purpose.

Review your credit report, make a payment plan and stick to it. Set your payments on automatic bill pay or allotment if you just don't have the discipline to pay on time.

So you've managed to save up money from your deployment, what now? Keep it! I know that it's tempting to want to splurge (which is o.k. to a limit). You earned it, but think before you make big ticket item purchases. If you want a new car, fine, but take your time and shop around. Look at markets outside of your local area. Find the right price and make sure that you can still afford to pay for your purchase when the deployment money runs out (and it will eventually). Resist the temptation to impulse buy just because your bank balance is a little overweight.

Now is the time to decide if you want to come home a financial hero or zero. As always, I'm hoping that this one is

Do your research and be active in your financial life. If you fail to make decisions, they'll be made for you. Take control and take advantage of this unique opportunity to get your money where it needs to be.

## Army launches Wounded Soldier, Family Hotline

Special to the Frontline

At the direction of the Acting Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff, Army, the Army will open March 19 its newly created Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline. The purpose of the hotline's call center is twofold: to offer wounded and injured Soldiers and family members a way to seek help to resolve medical issues and to provide an information channel of Soldier medically related issues directly to senior Army leadership so they can improve how Army serves the medical needs of our Soldiers and their families.

"We have designed this call center to be able to collectively hear what the Soldiers say about their health care issues, so as issues are raised, we can identify systemic faults or problematic areas and senior leaders can better allocate resources," said Maj. Gen. Sean J. Byrne, Commanding General, U.S. Army Human Resources Command. "It's all about serving our wounded and injured Soldiers and their families. If we can find a way to improve our system, we will. It's that simple."

Many wounded and injured Soldiers who have supported the Global War on Terror, as well as their families, are enduring hardships in navigating through our medical care system. The Army is committed to providing outstanding medical care for the men and women who have volunteered to serve this great nation. Recent events made it clear the Army needs to revise how it meets the needs of our wounded and injured Soldiers and their families. In certain cases, the Soldiers' chain of command could have done a better job in helping to resolve medically related issues.

Leaders in Soldiers' chains of command also need to be aware that this call center exists and that it has not been created to circumvent the chain of command.

In this particularly challenging time, as our senior Army leadership looks to ways to improve services to wounded and injured Soldiers and their families, this is another step in the direction of improvement. Wounded and injured Soldiers and their families expect and deserve the very best care and leadership from America's Army.

The Army's intent is to ensure wounded and injured Soldiers and their families that they receive the best medical care possible. The Army chain of command will ensure every Soldier is assisted in navigating the Military Health Care System.

The "Wounded Soldier and Family

Hotline" can be reached from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1-800-984-8523. As additional personnel are trained to receive calls and refer them to the proper organization or agency for resolution, the hotline hours of operation will expand to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



WOUNDED SOLDIER AND FAMILY HOTLINE

1-800-984-8523 overseas DSN 312-328-0002 stateside DSN 328-0002 email: wsfsupport@conus.army.mil



### **Marne Voices Speak Out**

"Units should have a family day. Show them the equipment we use and talk to them about the mission."

> Pfc. Justin Quaid HHC, 4th Bde



"Take care of the families so the Soldier can relax and focus on the mission. They'll feel more at ease if their families are ok."

Sgt. Rachel Boggs-Durant HHC, 4th BCT

### How can people best support the Soldiers after deployment?

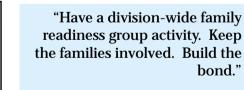
"Prior to the deployment, allow Soldiers to spend time with their families. Something the command is doing.'

> Staff Sgt. Jeff Riddle HHC 4th Bde



"Remember the mission of the Soldiers is important. Help keep the faith."

Maj. Adil Elnour HHC, 4th Bde.



Sgt. Daniel Sidman Family member



'Take care of the Soldiers' families. That's my major concern."

Pfc. Tiffany Kendrick B Co., 4th Bde STB

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Send to: **Public Affairs Office** Attn: The Frontline, Editor 894 William H. Wilson Ave. **Building 600C** 

Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314-4941 or fax it to 912-767-9366.

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Rock of the Marne

March 29, 2007 The Frontline 5A

## 2nd Brigade Combat Team revisits history

Pvt. Blanton Rosenau 2nd BCT Public Affairs

The ancient Spartans looked upon themselves as Soldiers, all their discipline pointing towards war. From an early age, Spartans were trained and drilled to become the ultimate warrior, with the single purpose to do whatever is necessary to

complete their mission in the battlefield.

Col. Terry R. Ferrell, commander for the 2nd Brigade Combat
Team, noted qualities in today's Soldiers which existed in
Spartans of history.

"Our Spartans are the finest, bravest Soldiers, and I am honored to serve as their commander," he said.

To thank the Soldiers for a job well done during the mission readiness exercise, 2nd BCT Soldiers were invited to watch '300' on March 21 at Georgia Theater Company Liberty Cinema 9. The Soldiers showed enthusiasm toward the movie, which is based on a historical recount on a small contingent of ancient Spartans, who valiantly and efficiently stalled the Persian army hundreds of times larger than their own, long enough for the main Army to arrive and win the war.

"The movie was very motivating," said Pvt Benjamin L.

Gobin, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry. "It makes you feel like you can win on the battlefield against any odds."

The movie awakened various emotions in the Soldiers.

"It is a reminder for what our American troops stand for," said Pfc. David A. Nevis, 3rd Battalion, 7th Cavalry. "I feel motivated. We will stand our ground over there. We are not playing and not going away until our mission is completed."

Pfc. Jeffrey M. Bush, 3/7 Cav. was equally moved.

"I feel honored to fight alongside the Spartans," he said. "The movie gave me a new meaning to what a Spartan is aboutstrong minded, loyal and dedicated. That is what they were. I feel that way as well."

Spc. Dustin M. Mills of Headquarter and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT said he liked how the Spartans separated violence from intent.

"It's not about simply destroying or violence," Mills said. "It's about killing evil. We kill terrorists to prevent them from attacking us, or any innocent people. The Spartans did much the same to protect their own."

The ancient Spartans were superior to their enemies in their fighting skills, tactics and equipment. Much of that superiority stemmed from rigorous training.

"The 2nd BCT Spartans are equally superior to their enemies," said Capt. Shane Williams, HHC 2nd BCT commander. "Through after action reviews, instant feedback, and subject matter experts, we constantly evolve and improve to adapt to our enemies and anticipate their moves."

"The enemy employs a lot more rudimentary tactics," he continued. "Improvised explosive devices are lethal but we counter those with our superior equipment and trained Soldiers."

He said today's equipment is far superior to any the enemy can throw at the Spartans on the battlefield.

"The spear and shield are replaced by computers, tanks and rifles," Williams said. "Our systems enable us to react to any situation quickly and devaluate it to take appropriate counter measures."

In the movie, King Leonidas said, "A new age has come. An age of freedom. And all will know that 300 Spartans gave their last breath to defend it."

Williams said that his Spartans are in a very similar situation. "Like the ancient Spartans held the mountain pass at Thermopylae, we defend the western freedom and civilization."

### DoD announces Soldier death

The Department of Defense announced Sunday the death of a Soldier who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sgt. Adrian J. Lewis, 30, of Mauldin, S.C., died March 21 in Ramadi, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his unit came in contact with enemy forces using small arms fire during combat operations.

He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. A tank crewman, Lewis entered the Army in April 2000. He arrived at Fort Stewart in Sept. 2002.

#### **Army Emergency Relief**

AER is the Army's own emergency financial assistance organization and is dedicated to "Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own." AER provides commanders a valuable asset in accomplishing their basic command responsibility for the morale and welfare of Soldiers.

AER funds are made available to commanders having AER Sections to provide emergency financial assistance to Soldiers - active & retired - and their dependents when there is a valid need

active & retired - and their dependents when there is a valid need.

AER funds made available to commanders are not limited and are constrained only by the requirement of valid need.

For these reasons, the AER assistance program is conducted within the Army structure by major commanders and their installation/organization commanders through AER sections and other related organizations.

To learn more about AER, contact your unit AER representative or Army Community Service at 767-5058.

## Things to know about FEDVIP

Special to the Frontline

Many employees are now enrolled in one, two, or all of three of programs: Federal Employees Dental and Vision and Vision Insurance Program; Flexible Spending Accunts; and/or Long Term Care Insurance.

Unlike our health, life, and Thrift Savings Plan benefits that are handled by the Army Benefits Center-Civilian, each of these programs is handled by a different third-party administrator chosen by the Office of Personnel Management.

The administrators maintain your enrollment and coordinate premium payments. Accordingly, your servicing human resources offices are not aware of your enrollment in any of these programs. Therefore, there are certain things that you must keep in mind concerning your enrollment:

#### Change in address, contact information

When you enrolled in one of the above programs, you created an "account" or "profile" in the automated system of each administrator. If you have any change to your email address, home address, phone numbers, etc., it is important to update this information in the appropriate system so that you continue to receive information about your enrollment.

Also, if your are enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program, it is important to contact your FEHB carrier to report any change of mailing address to ensure that you continue to receive your FEHB ID cards and plan information.

#### Leave without pay

If you enter into a non-pay status, or expect to go into a non-pay status (including LWOP to perform active duty military service or if you are receiving benefits from the Office of Workers' Compensation) you must contact the plan administrator to discuss your options for continuing your premiums.

Although each is handled differently, you can discuss your situation with the administrator's customer service representatives to ensure that your premiums, and your enrollment, continue. For example, with an FSA enrollment, you can elect to make accelerated deductions or for FEDVIP, you can arrange for direct-billing to keep your premiums current.

Transferring employment – If you are transferring to a new federal installation or agency and your servicing payroll office will change, you should alert the program administrator of this change to ensure that your premiums are withheld by your new servicing payroll office.



### Fort Stewart /Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

#### MGIB transferability to spouses

The Secretary of the Army has approved the transfer of up to 18 months of Montgomery GI Bill benefits to spouses as a pilot program. Eligible Soldiers must have enrolled in MGIB on DD Form 2366 upon entry to active duty. If you cannot locate your DD Form 2366 check your official military personnel file or go online to Army Knowledge Online for details. Your education counselor can assist you with information about your MGIB benefits. Please contact your unit retention career counselor for details. This program is managed by retention personnel.

#### Work as youth volunteer

The American Red Cross Summer Youth Program begins June 11 and concludes July 20. Applications are available at the American Red Cross Office, building 253, Suite 2074. Students must complete youth volunteer application packets and attend orientation by May 31. Late applications will not be accepted. Work permits must be obtained for all youth under the age of 18. For more information call ARC office at 767-2197. Youth orientations will be held in the Patriot Auditorium, Winn Army Community Hospital 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., May 31. If interested in obtaining a youth volunteer for placement to assist this summer, contact the American Red Cross, at 767-2197.

#### Scholarship opportunity contest

Homefront America has joined the W. Daniel Tate family and Sara's Hope Foundation for a second year to host a scholarship contest awarding \$1,000 to 25 military family children. The organization is designed to connect U.S. citizens' support directly to troops and their families.

This year's contestants are asked to submit essays on one of four subjects: America, it's a wonderful country; Turning challenges into opportunities; Why I am proud to be an American; or My dad/mom - my hero. Essays not exceeding 500 words are due by April 23. They will be judged by independent volunteers based on content, originality, grammar and spelling. Winners will be announced in May.

#### New students in Georgia

Children ages four and older entering Georgia's School system for the first time must have the Georgia Certificate

of Eye, Ear and Dental Screening form and the Georgia Certificate of Immunization completed. Winn Army Community Hospital wants to help you get a head start on preparing for the next school year.

All services except eye and ear screenings are available on a walk-in basis for school health screenings. Dental screenings are available Monday through Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m. and Friday from 2 to 3 p.m. on a walk-in basis at Dental Clinic 1. For more information, call 767-8513.

Immunization screenings are available on a walk-in basis 8 to 11 a.m., Monday- Wednesday and Friday. Thursday from 1- 3 p.m. For more information, call the Allergy Immunization Clinic at 435-6633.

Eye and ear services are available by appointment only. To schedule an eye or ear screening, call the appointment line, 435-6633.

#### Stewart -

#### Police change service hours

The police services branch of the Directorate of Emergency Services will be changing their customer service hours to meet community needs.

DES is located at 304 East Bultman Ave. in Building 283, next to the police station. The new hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday. The office is closed for lunch 11 a.m. to Noon. The office hours are Noon to 4 p.m. on Thursday. The police services branch provides taxi permits, copies of police reports and background checks. For more information, call 767-8495.

#### Special Olympics needs you

Volunteers are needed as huggers, event officials, score sheet runners and, most importantly, the cheering section at this year's Spring Special Olympics. The event is 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 13 at the Fort Stewart Quick Track, across the street from Newman Fitness Center. To volunteer or find more out about the event contact Mavis Crowell or Vickie Wiginton at 767-1257.

#### Find the Easter Eggs

The Hispanic Heritage Club will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Diamond Elementary's football field. For more information, call Master Sgt. Pablo Rodriguez at 884-6098.

#### **April is Month of the Military Child**

Fort Stewart will hold an opening ceremony 8:45 a.m., April 2 at building 403. The guest speaker is Garrison Commander Col. Todd Buchs.

Also, the installation will have a "Super Fun Show" at 2:30 p.m. featuring Shawn Brown at Woodruff Theater.

More activities are scheduled throughout the month to commemorate the month including Wheels Day on April 20 and a carnival family picnic on April 27. Detail will follow in later issues.

#### **Child Abuse Prevention Month**

Parents with children under 12, come out and have fun at Marne Lanes, April 3 and 10 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., April 4 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and April 5 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Hunter Lanes.

Parents bring your teenagers to Marne lanes April 19 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Hunter Lanes from 9 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$1 per game (shoes included).

#### Ready-to-quit class for smokers

This class is for those interested in quitting tobacco use. This class is a pre-requisite to Tobacco Use Cessation classes. The classes are held the fourth Wednesday of every month at 11 a.m. For more information or to make an appointment, at Winn or Tuttle call 435-5071 or 1-800-652-9221.

#### **Hunter** -

#### **Have Easter Brunch at Hunter Club**

Don't miss the Easter Sunday Brunch, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Apr. 8, at the Hunter Club. The cost is \$12.95 for adults, and children ages 5-10 eat for half price. Children under age 5 eat for free. Get \$1 off with groups of 20 or more or with a church bulletin.Call 353-7923 for additional information.

#### Join Hunter Spouses for lunch

Don't miss a fabulous afternoon in City Market at Belfords restaurant, 11 a.m., Apr. 10 for lunch. Club participants will vote on the 2007-2008 board members for the club. Lunch is \$15.

To reserve a spot, contact Tiffany Boyce, 925-1687, before Apr. 6.



#### Stewart GMH Walking Club

Don't try to get in shape alone-do it with friends! Put on your sneakers and walk your way into good health April 2 and April 16, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. starting at Southern Oaks Community Center. Strollers welcome.

#### Join community huddles

Be an active part of your community by attending your huddle and sharing ideas, issues or concerns with GMH. Events take place on April 3, 10:30-11:00 a.m. at St. Tropez and Fedala and April 10 at Marne

Woods across from Brittian Elementary, Bryan Village North.

#### **Come to Eggstravaganza Party**

Come celebrate Easter with food, fun and prizes! Also, try your chance at winning a great Easter basket at the Southern Oaks Community Center from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m., April 6.

#### Join Sidewalk Art Day

Come show off your artistic ability with sidewalk chalk at the Southern Oaks Community Center 3:30 p.m. -4:30 p.m., April 11.

#### Put your best face forward

Ladies, come and pamper yourselves with a free Mary Kay facial and makeup tips at the Southern Oaks Community Center from 12:30 p.m. -1:30p.m, April 13. Light refreshments will be provided.

#### Come get a cool treat

Join GMH and ACS for a cool treat! Enjoy your ice cream on a cone or create your own with delicious toppings! Parents, enjoy your treat while watching a demonstration on infant massage by an ACS representative at the Southern Oaks Community Center 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m, April 20.

#### Join Pen Pal Club

Make a new friend for life by writing and receiving letters at Southern Oaks Community Center from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., April 24.

### Hunter Slated community huddles

Be an active part of your community by attending your huddle and sharing ideas, issues or concerns with GMH at the New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center, from 10:30 a.m. -11 a.m., April 12.

#### Eggstravaganza Party slated

Come celebrate Easter with food, fun and prizes! Also, try your chance at winning a great Easter basket at the New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center, from 4 p.m.- 5 p.m., April 5.

#### Sidewalk Art Day coming

Come showoff your artistic ability with sidewalk chalk at the New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center, from 4 p.m.-5 p.m., April 12.

#### Put your best face forward

Ladies, come and pamper yourselves with a free Mary Kay facial and makeup tips. Event starts April 19 from 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. at the New Savannah/New Callaway Cummunity Center.



Above: John Dawson, a civilian contractor, carefully and slowly guides a big rig down the long

States and Britain in the war effort," Dykes said. "These are my skills and I want to use them to help. I have a lot of friends and family in America and it touched my heart what had happened here on September 11th. I felt it was my duty to come out here and help in whatever way possible."



Illustration by Spc. Christopher Molina

Rock of the Marne March 29, 2007 The Frontline 9A



Black Hawk helicopters from 4/3 Avn. depart FOB Falcon, carrying Soldiers from A Company, 4/64 Armor, to an air assault.

#### CAB-

The general support aviation was made for command and control, and other support requirements, not air assault, he said.

"We came down here and did Marne Focus in 2004," Cassle said, "and we went to the field and trained in the crawl, walk, run model on how to get in and out of the air-

The units then trained on full speed air assault insertions, and went on to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., to apply what they learned in a combat training environment, said Cassle.

In 2005, 4/3 Avn. deployed to Iraq with the CAB and supported whatever ground unit was in need of their ability to move a significant force into battle in a short period of time, said Mahe.

"We did a couple of air assaults, cordon and search, and hasty assaults," he said.

Since redeploying from Iraq in early 2006 4/3 Avn. has moved down to Hunter Army Airfield from Fort Campbell permanently, and still trains for air assault missions. The unit isn't limited to air assault, said Cassle.

"We can not only put the troops in, but we can also resupply," he said. Cassle said they can perform mass casualty evacuaFrom Page 1A

tions, fly in quick reaction forces, bring five ships with up to sixty troops onto the battlefield within half an hour of notification, and patrol from the air with infantry Soldiers on board.

"We bring the capability of doing the same type of thing as the 101st Airborne Division," said Spc. Kenneth Thompson, Co. B, 4/3 Avn.

Thompson was with the 9/101 Avn. at Campbell and has been a crew chief on UH-60 Blackhawks since 2001. He has 1,500 total flight hours, most of it

combat flight hours, and he's readying for his third trip to Iraq. Thompson said the 3rd Inf. Div. is still in

the learning phase as far as using the air assault capabilities of 4/3 Avn.

"Yes, they have the tanks and the Bradleys, but at the same time they can use an air asset to get the mission done. It also eliminates the threat of (improvised explosive devices) the troops face on the ground."

"It's like we bring 30 extra Blackhawks to the division," said Cassle.

"We can put you anywhere you want within a 30-second window whether it's a squad or a battalion."



Courtesv Photo

June 1, 2005: As UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from Bravo Co., 4/3 AHB, approach the pick-up zone, members of the 1/63 Iraqi army battalion wait patiently for the signal to move to the helicopters at the end of a successful mission.

# Frozen Food Month stirs March madness

Convenience, quality, great

prices, variety and good mix

of health-related and organic

products are what customers

frozen foods section today."

find when they shop the

DeCA director of sales

#### Rick Brink

Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. - March Madness means more than basketball for the Defense Commissary Agency.

It's a full court press on frozen food sales, merchandising and creating in-store excitement for commissary shoppers looking for quality, convenient food that fits their busy lifestyles.

"Convenience, quality, great prices, variety and a good mix of health-related and organic products are what customers find when they shop the frozen foods section today," aid Tom Milks, DeCA's director of sales. "With March being Frozen Food Month our commissaries are featuring a parade of weekly and biweekly promotions making it a great time for customers to buy frozen."

In addition to the great prices, customers can't help but notice the all-out frozen food merchandising efforts including product demos and giveaways as commissaries participate in an annual frozen food merchandising competition.

It's no accident that March is DeCA's highest sales volume month for frozen foods, said LaRue Smith, DeCA's frozen foods buyer.

So what do customers like? Out of 24 frozen food categories the frozen dinner and entrée category is the top-selling category followed by pizza, seafood, processed

frozen poultry-like chicken wings or battered chicken strips, and ice cream and sherbet.

While these five categories account for about half of frozen food sales, commissaries offer a wide variety of frozen food

items to meet cusdemand, tomer Smith said.

"We offer an incredible variety of items - frozen vegetables, heatand-eat snacks, desserts, juicesthe list just goes on and on," he said. "And their big attraction with customers, besides great taste and our

low prices, is that they require little to no preparation time."

**Tom Milks** 

"You just take it out of the package and follow instructions - cook or heat-and-eat or simply thaw it to enjoy," Smith contin-

An "on-the-go" food is a term DeCA's dietitian, Maj. Karen Fauber, uses when she describes how frozen foods help her prepare meals to fit a particularly busy week working and shuttling teenagers

"I buy the packs of frozen pre-cooked chicken and use them for late-night din-

ners," said Fauber. "Just thaw them in the microwave, mix with cooked rice, noodles or beans and frozen vegetables, add Italian or ranch salad dressing, heat and eat."

"If there are no noodles or pasta available, then I heat the meat, vegetables and

beans and throw it into pitas or a tortilla for a quick wrap," she said. "We also make these as sandwiches for on-the-go nights. And, I will add an apple or a banana to complete this healthy meal with less calories and more nutrients than fast food."

Fauber said March is a great time to highlight the benefits of frozen food. It's a time when increased

daylight hours draw people to outdoor activities, increasing their desire for food that's convenient as well as healthy.

And for those gathered around a television watching the NCAA Basketball Tourney, the frozen food section has plenty to make the games more enjoyable, regardless of whose team wins during March Madness.

#### DeCA

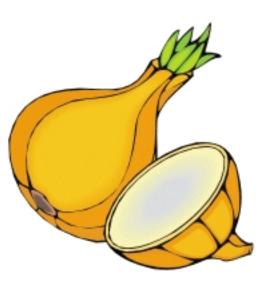
The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel,

retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment.

Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a five-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones.

Shoppers save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices - savings worth about \$3,000 annually for a family of four.

A core military family support element, and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country.





## -Justice Served-

#### **Military Justice**

**Private** from 603d ASB, convicted at summary court-martial; wrongful use of cocaine; seven day confinement, 14 days hard labor w/o confinement.

**Private** from 603d ASB, convicted at summary court-martial; wrongful use of marijuana; reduction to E-1, seven days confinement.

**Private** from 603d ASB, convicted at summary court-martial; wrongful use of cocaine; reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$650 for one month, 60 days restriction.

**Specialist** from 603d ASB, convicted at summary court-martial; wrongful use of marijuana; reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$650 for one month, 45 days hard labor w/o confinement.

**Private 1st Class** from 603d ASB, convicted at summary court-martial; wrongful use of cocaine; reduction to E-1, seven days confinement.

**Private 1st Class** from 603d ASB, convicted at summary court-martial; wrongful use of marijuana; reduction to E-1, 45 days hard labor w/o confinement.

**Private 1st Class** from 603d ASB, convicted at summary court-martial; drunk on duty, wrongful use of marijuana; reduction to E-1, 21 days confinement.

**Specialist** from 603d ASB, convicted at summary court-martial; wrongful use of marijuana, MDA, and methamphetamine; reduction to E-1, 28 days confinement.

**Specialst** from 603d ASB, convicted at summary court-martial; wrongful use of cocaine and MDA; reduction to E-1, seven days confinement, 23 days hard labor w/o confinement.

**Specialist** from 1/3 Avn., found guilty at Article 15; DUI and failure to obey general order; reduced to E1, forfeited \$1300, 45

days extra duty/restriction.

**Sergeant** from 1/3 AVN, found guilty at Article 15; dereliction of duty; reduced to E4, forfeited \$1000 pay, 45 days extra duty/restriction.

**Private 1st Class** from 1/3 AVN, found guilty at Article 15; multiple FTR and dereliction of duty; reduced to E2, forfeited \$340 pay.

**Private 1st Class** from 603d ASB, found guilty at Article 15; failure to obey a GO and false official statement; forfeited \$864 pay, 15 days extra duty/restriction.

#### **Adverse Administrative Actions**

OMPF Filed General Officer Memoranda of Reprimand for DUI Offenses

Corporal, 703 BSB, BAC .194 Sergeant, 1/64 Armor, BAC .101

The Garrison Commander, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, barred four personnel from the installation for the following offenses: theft by shoplifting, theft of public property, violating the conditions of a suspended bar and driving while on the Post Driving Suspension List.

Failure of any of these individuals to comply subjects them to arrest, detention and federal prosecution.

## Child, Youth Services offers home program

Child and Youth Services offers a Parents as Teachers/Heroes at Home Program at Fort Stewart. The parent educational support program serves military families with young children, prenatal to 36 months. For more information or registration, call 767-0016.

#### **Legal Notice**

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Forrest Waterbury**, HHC, 3/69 Armor Bn., Fort Stewart, Ga, 31314 contact 1st Lt. Miriel Davis, Rear Det., 3rd BSB, Fort Stewart, Ga 31314 at 767-7529.

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Adrian J. Lewis**, D Co 3rd Bn. 69th Armor Regiment, Fort Stewart, Ga, 31314 contact 1st Lt. Clinton, B Co, 3rd Bn. 69th Regiment, Fort Stewart, Ga 31314 at (912) 315-7292.

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## Overview of the 2006-2007 Deer/Feral Hog Season

**Emory Moore** 

Directorate of Public Works

A season to remember! The reported harvest at the 2006-2007 deer check station is truly an indication of a successful hunting season. Biologists collected management data on 492 deer at the check station which is located behind the Pass & Permit Office. This total exceeded any reported harvests in recent years by nearly 150 animals and we expect this number to grow. The total harvest for the year is still unknown since hunters are continuing to return their deer/feral hog harvest cards. Hunters are reminded that Fort Stewart Regulation 420-4 requires that all deer/feral hog harvest cards be returned to the Pass & Permit Office, building 8091, not later than 30 days following the close of the State deer firearms season which ended Jan. 15.

No harvest card is needed for the "Extended Hog Season". The "Extended Hog Season" is defined as the season which runs from the close of the State Deer Firearms Season in January until the opening of State Deer Archery Season in September. The Extended Hog Season closes in all but "archery only" areas during the State Turkey Season, March 24 – May 15 to avoid conflicts with turkey hunters and reopens the following day on

May 16.

Throughout the season, biologists collected management data such as age, weight, antler beam diameter, antler beam length, and number of points. Productivity data is collected from does through the collection fetuses and analysis of ovaries late in the breeding season. This season data collected from 242 bucks and 250 does. minor



Courtesy Photo

declines were noted in weights and antler measurements of yearling bucks. The drought and less acorn production contributed to this decline from the 2005-2006 season. The body condition of yearling bucks is much more indicative of habitat changes since they are less influenced by the breeding season than older age class bucks. The largest buck reported to the check station this year was harvested from the "C" training areas and was an eightpoint buck weighing in at 167 pounds. Doe productiv-

ity continues to be very good with most mature does carrying twins. In the 1970's, Fort Stewart does produced less than one fawn per

increased productivity is due to habitat improvements made through increases in timber harvesting and prescribed burning as well as the removal of excess does through hunting. Productivity of the does and fawn survival generally improves when the does enter the breeding season in prime condition.

This past season two managed deer/feral hog hunts were held in the Red Cloud Range Complex for active and retired military. These quota hunts, supported by Morale Welfare and Recreation, the Directorate of Emergency Services and the Directorate of Public Works, were successful and enjoyed by all. A total of 26 deer and eight hogs were harvested on the Dec. 26, 2006 hunt and 10 deer and two hogs were harvested on the 2 January 2007 hunt.

Hunters are encouraged to hunt the Extended Feral Hog Season which is now underway. The time period from the close of State Deer Firearms Season on Jan. 15 until the opening of the State Turkey Season on March 24 is a prime time to hunt the feral hog. Hog hunters can hunt without the hunting pressure from other deer hunters and are much less likely to encounter mosquitoes and poisonous snakes than in the warmer months.

For more information, visit the Fort Stewart hunting website at www.stewart.army.mil/dp w/wildlife/default.htm. All hunters are encouraged to become familiar with Ft. Stewart Reg. 420-4, all safety rules, making positive ID of your target and wearing the required orange safety vests at all times when hunting. Remember, "Hide from deer but not hunters with Hunter Orange".

Rock of the Marne

March 29, 2007 The Frontline 11A

## Garrison displays teamwork, supports deploying Soldiers

**Nancy Gould** Hunter Public Affairs

After weeks of training and preparation, 3rd Sustainment Brigade Soldiers walked single file across the tarmac at Truscott Air Terminal to the commercial aircraft waiting to transport them on the first leg of their journey to Iraq.

But deploying Soldiers weren't the only ones who prepared for this moment. Deployment operations staff at Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield garrison directorates devoted long hours coordinating details before the Soldiers' deployment to make certain both equipment and Soldiers had a smooth, seamless transition to their forward operating station in Iraq where they will conduct combat operations over next several months.

"The garrison is the support structure behind division and tenant units," said Col. Todd Buchs, Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander. "Logistical support is a process we've refined over time. Because of that, we've become a welloiled machine that deploys Soldiers extremely well."

Staff members from several garrison directorates contribute to the seamless process of deploying division Soldiers worldwide, such as the National Training Center in California or the Global War on Terror in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Brenda Beasley, a group movement coordinator, Directorate

of Logistics, plays a key role in the process.

She meets deploying soldiers when they arrive at Truscott Air Terminal, also known as the Departure and Arrival Control Group facility, where they deploy and redeploy. She begins a process consisting of accountability/safety briefings before Soldiers disembark the buses that bring them from Fort Stewart. They learn what will take place at the DAACG in the hours preceding their departure.

Martha M. Guy, Hunter Army Airfield chief of Personnel Processing Center, Directorate of Human Resources, and her staff work with Beasley scanning identification cards, and producing a "manifest" or actual account of the number of Soldiers who will board the chartered commercial aircraft. After boarding, the number of Soldiers on the list is reconfirmed

Once the initial manifest process is completed inside the DAACG, Beasley directs Soldiers to the facility's canteen area where they eat a hot meal prepared by Combat Aviation Brigade Dining Facility staff.

"We're the only installation that gives Soldiers a hot meal before they leave," said Beasley.

An hour prior to boarding, Beasley imposes a "lockdown" for Soldiers in a "sterile room" at the rear of the DAACG where she delivers anti-hijack and load briefs. The load brief reminds Soldiers of safety precautions and directs them to wear helmets rather than their soft caps, to ensure safety near the aircraft. When released, Beasley or another deployment team member escorts them to the aircraft and seats them from the rear forward. Regardless of their primary duties, the deployment staff works together to accomplish multiple last minute tasks before troops depart.

Unit containers are already enroute to the Global War on Terror when Soldiers take off, thanks to deployment team members such as Robert P. McLellam, transportation specialist and unit mover trainer.

McLellam teaches unit movement officers a computer-based program, Transportation Coordinator Automated Command and Control Information System, that generates the paperwork required to ship rolling stock and containers filled with essential equipment during deployment— from toilet paper to computers to weaponry— approximately three weeks prior to units deploying.

"It gets stressful for Soldiers," said McLellam. "They have to learn to use the TCACCI system, which identifies information about container content, in addition to their regular duties, and they have to be accurate. No container leaves the air terminal without proper documentation."

Before shipment, the container weight specified by the unit movement officer is checked by a deployment team member to ensure it matches paperwork.

Roy L. Kates, a Hunter transportation specialist who oversees the deployment team, keeps account of the number of containers shipped per deploying unit.

"Our goal is to get the container to the port, through the inspection process, and loaded on ships for Kuwait," said McLellam.

"We have shipped 245 containers for the STB and about 75

containers for the 1st Brigade Combat Team when they deployed," Kates said. "We will soon ship 800 for the Combat Aviation Brigade."

McLellam also instructs unit movement officers on how to attach radio frequency tags to containers for tracking purposes.

Before they're shipped, Sharon A. Moody, a freight rate specialist, inspects the computer-generated paperwork to ensure that contents, which also include hazardous chemicals, are compatible.

Tiffany A. Smith, the Hunter transportation assistant also assists McLellam with container movement tasks during

deployment but her primary job is to assist Soldiers before they

ever get to the DAACG to deploy.

Working with the personal property team at Hunter prior to deployment, Smith briefs Soldiers on their transportation and property entitlements. She and other transportation staff make arrangements for the Army to store their privately owned vehicles and property while deployed. For Soldiers returning to a new duty station, the staff ships privately owned vehicles and

"Our goal is to support Soldiers," Smith said. "We work hard to get them what they need – and some of those tasks are really short fused."

property in advance of their return for storage.

Many other deployment-related duties and functions require a quick response from deployment team members.

William K. Phipps, Operations Branch manager, Airfield Division, DPTMS, is on-the-ground during all deployment operations and has the primary responsibility of keeping the airfield safe and ensuring operations are conducted smoothly. He is also responsible for loading and coordinating all cargo

transfers. He and his trans-alert crew maintain special equip ment for these duties and are on-call at all times.

He "de-conflicts" schedules between 3rd Infantry Division and tenant units, such as Special Operations Forces units and others who use the airfield regularly. He also assigns aircraft parking, oversees aircraft tracking, refueling, and basically finds out "who needs what when" along with all other command and control operations. His support for the airfield is diverse and also includes care of national assets that are transient to Hunter, such as C-12s and C-26s.

Phipps said that the airfield retains its power projection platform capability through the coordinated efforts and airfield services from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Directorate of Public Works, Griffin Services, outside agencies and new airfield construction.

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation also makes a coordinated effort to support Soldiers and their families prior to and during deployment.

"Garrison support is never turned off," said Buchs," When Soldiers deploy; Army Community Service steps in to give spouses educational classes and childcare support."

Bess Stone, mobile deployment specialist with Army Community Service, facilitates unit briefings with resource agencies for commanders and Soldiers and family members before deployment. Their goal is to provide general information and to inform families about resource services available, such as legal and medical services, and to educate them about the issues they should confront before their Soldier leaves.

"We don't want families to be surprised," said Stone about issues affecting spouses in their Soldier's absence such as the need for power of attorney or medical coverage for their children. "We want them to be prepared."

ACS support is reinforced with spouse support groups and other DMWR-sponsored activities. During deployment, DMWR offers additional recreational events to families and childcare to spouses.

"When Soldiers step on the plane, we want them to have total confidence and trust in us to take care of their families," said Buchs.

Volunteer organizations are eager to show Soldiers they care and to ease the separation transition from their families.

The Savannah Chapter of the American Red Cross and the USO work together to accomplish that task, according to Robin Wingate, CEO of the Savannah Chapter of the Red Cross. About 10 representatives from the combined groups formed a partnership to serve Soldiers before the leave. They offer doughnuts, homemade cookies, beverages on site as well as toiletries, books, incidentals and other items for Soldiers to choose to bag up and take with them in flight.

"It's all about love," said Wingate. And being there is as important to the volunteers as it is to the Soldiers. They feel such pride in serving these Soldiers and seeing them off with flags, hugs, and words of encouragement."

Lt. Col. Carl Coffman, Hunter garrison commander said he's impressed with their service.

See GARRISON

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### Ft. Stewart/Hunter Morale, Welfare and Recreation

GC Scramble @ Taylors Creek
30 March - 9am Shotgun - Taylors Creek Golf Course
\$25 members/ \$30 non-members, first 25 teams only.
767-2370

#### Post Easter Egg Hunt @ FS & HAAF 31 March - 10am to 2 pm, Ages 1-11

Fort Stewart: Youth Sports Fields (Behind School Age Svcs., Bldg 6571) Hunter Army Airfield: Child Development & Youth Center Playground

Professional photographer available for photo's with the Easter Bunny.

Kids Inflatable's & activities.

Bring a picnic and make a day of it.

FRGs may reserve a picnic spot on site.

Presented by MWR, AAFES & Hispanic Heritage Club. Sponsored by Brewton-Parker and Savannah Technical College. For more info call 767-4491 / 4493 @ FS and 315-5708 @ HAAF

#### Family Discount Outing @ Marne Lanes 31 March - 4 to 10pm – Marne Bowling Center

Enjoy an evening out with the family.
Buy one large pizza of your choice and receive 4 free games.
767-4866

#### WrestleMania 23

1 April - 7pm - Rocky's

Live on Pay-Per-View. Come see Hair vs. Hair Match (Bobby Lashley w/Donald Trump & Umaga w/ Vince McMahon).

Steve Austin as Special Guest referee.

WWE (John Cena vs. Shawn Michaels) and World Heavyweight (Batista vs. The Undertaker) Championship Matches.

767-8715 / 368-2212

#### Spring Camps @ HAAF

2-6 April

School Age Services Camp: (Mon-Fri) 6am - 6pm, Youth Services, Bldg 1289, 315-5708 Middle School & Teen Program Camp:

(Mon-Fri) 12-6pm, For registration, please call 315-5425.

\*Mention of sponsor does not imply Government endorsement.

## National Training Center on the road again

Spc. John A. Seman

National Training Center Public Affairs Office

In its 25 year history the National Training Center and Fort Irwin has seen a lot of changes and demonstrated tremendous adaptability.

In the early days of the NTC, one would see massive force on force battles with numerous Soviet tanks and Soviet infantry vehicles rushing across the desert floor overrunning the visiting American Blue Force.

The visiting American unit often lost because they faced the finest Soviet Motorized Regiment in the world, NTCs renowned Opposing Force.

Later NTC adapted again as the Berlin Wall came down and the Cold War ended. The Opposing Force became Iraqi Republican Guard Army.

They again prepared American brigades around the United States for the First Gulf War.

In 2004 NTC once again changed to meet the training needs of the U.S. Army by creating Iraqi villages, populated them with Iraqi actors/linguists and had the renowned Opposing

Force become insurgents.

But now with the Global War on Terrorism, NTC adapts again in a way many thought not possible. And that was to take the NTC on the road again with short notice to provide quality pre-deployment training for the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team of the 3rd Infantry Division at their home station, Fort Stewart, Ga.

This home station Mission Rehearsal Exercise was required because of the short deployment timeline of the 2/3 HBCT according to Major Will Kepley, deputy G3 of the NTC. Brig. Gen. Robert W. Cone, commanding general of the NTC and Fort Irwin, is quick to point out that this is the fourth time in almost three years that NTC has exported a rotation to a unit's home station.

So to facilitate the deployment of the 2/3 HBCT, their MRE is being conducted at Fort Stewart, their home turf. But that is not always easy.

"A home station MRE has the personnel distractions that a rotation at the NTC would never have", said Sgt. 1st Class Roland Cuellar, Scorpion 27A, an observer controller of the Operations Group. But no matter where Soldiers are being trained, the observer controllers bring a wealth of knowledge and experience. Perhaps the most important thing that an OC brings is his or her eyes. "As an OC we bring a second and third set of eyes that help the unit leaders give their Soldiers the proper training", added Cuellar.

"The Soldiers of 2/3HBCT are learning a lot in a very short time and no matter where they get trained, they are getting the best that the Army has to offer. Fort Stewart has put a lot of money and effort with emphasis on effort into making this a viable training cycle", said Capt. J.R. Johnson, Scorpion 09.

Moving the NTC is not an easy task to accomplish. It requires lots of coordination of movement of personnel and equipment.

The short notice had the Operations Group Lizards hustling to write appropriate scenarios for Fort Stewart.

But with this being the second trip to Fort Stewart in six months, things went much smoother. Coming to Fort Stewart this time was very smooth, Cuellar commented.

"Even though we are only into the third day of Situational Training Lanes, we are getting off to a good start", said Sgt 1st Class Karl Harvey, Tarantula 17E of Operations Group.



Nancy Gould

Bryan County Superintendent visits Hunter Army Airfield Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Carl Coffman and Deputy Garrison Commander Kewyn Williams, take Bryan County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Sallie Brewer, Assistant Superintendent Brad Anderson and Associate Superintendent John Oliver to the Truscott Air Terminal Mar. 20.

"He said nice things about our schools," said Brewer. "Soldiers said our schools are a safe place for their children to be." Brewer, Anderson and Oliver want Bryan County Schools to be good neighbors with the military especially with more than 11 percent of their student population coming from military families. "We're very proud of what our military parents do and their contributions," said Brewer. "We want the service members to know their families are in good order while they are away."

## 3rd Infantry Division

Days of Remembrance

"Children in Crisis: Voices from the Holocaust"

Featuring Guest Speaker
Mrs. Malinda M. Stein
Daughter of Holocaust Survivors



We invite all to join us at 1:30 - 3 p.m. on April 25 at the Moon Theater, Fort Stewart.

### -Education Matters—

#### **Educational Coffee slated**

The Sgt. 1st Class Smith Education Center will host an education coffee 9:15 a.m., April 3. Join our counselor with your educational questions or concerns. The coffees are offered the first Tuesday of each month but counselors are available Monday through Friday for individual sessions. Call 767-8331 for more information.

#### Schools recruits troops

A troops and spouses-to teacher-representative visits the Education Center 11 a.m. to Noon, April 25. For more information, call 767-8331.

#### Get free college credit

Columbia College-Spouse's Opportunity Scholarship provides a tuition waiver for an initial course with Columbia College at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center for spouses of military personnel enrolled in their school. This is a value of \$435, which is the cost of their three credit hour, in the classroom, courses. The program is an incentive for eligible students to embark on a degree program, while completing the financial aid process and securing ongoing financial support.

#### Attend college graduation

Ft. Stewart 2007 graduates are being invited to join with the 2008 graduates for the May 15, 2008 ceremony. We are recommending they contact their individual colleges for an alternate

ceremony if they want to walk this year.

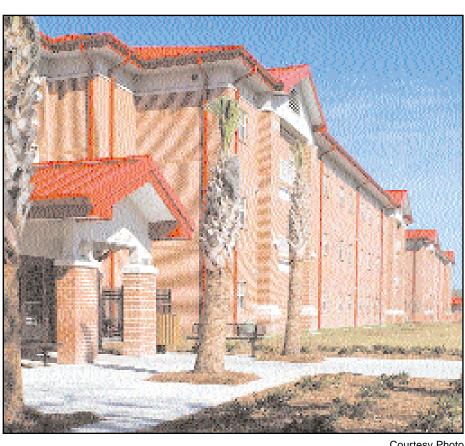
On post schools college term dates:

Central Texas College, 876-4045 May 28-July 21; Columbia College, 877-3406 May 14 –June 2; Embry Riddle, 355-0644 May 29 – July 30; Savannah Technical, 408-2430 Mar 30 – June 14 and July 9-Sep 19; Webster, 876-8080 May 28 – July 26

#### **Get ESL assistance**

Registrater for assistance with English as a second language, Noon to 1 p.m., every Tuesday and Thursday. The opportunity is free. For more information call 368-7322.

Rock of the Marne



Courtesy Photo

The 1/75 Rangers at Hunter receive newly built barracks.

### 1st Battalion, 75th Rangers receive barracks

Sarah McCleary

Savannah District Corps of Engineers

United States Army Rangers have one of the most dangerous and sometimes deadly missions in fighting our nation's wars. Fortunately for the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Hunter Army Airfield, going home will no longer be treacherous as well. As of March 26, this elite group will move into a new barracks complex constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District.

"The state of the old barracks is unimaginable," said Stephen Bentley, project engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers. According to Bentley, the old barracks contain asbestos, mold and mildew, and utilities requiring constant maintenance.

According to several Soldiers planning to move in the next few weeks, mold is a constant problem.

"I had to keep my fan on even in the winter because of the heat and mold," said Pfc. Adam Ochoa.

The new barracks afford the Rangers all of the modern conveniences they are lacking in the post World War II construction they inhabit now. The nearly \$36 million dollar complex includes six barracks buildings with apartment-like accommoda-

tions for nearly 500 Soldiers.

Every Ranger living in the new complex will have a personal bedroom, bathroom, and closet.

March 29, 2007 The Frontline 13A

"It's nice to have your own private space," said Pfc. Tory Honda.

In addition, two Soldiers share a common kitchen area, complete with range. Lawton said he likes the kitchen in the new barracks because he often misses chow.

The complex also includes a Headquarters facility, volleyball court, picnic shelters, and a central energy plant.

"This barracks complex is something the Rangers

deserved for a long time coming," said Lt. Col. Bryan L. Rudacille, commander of the 1-75 Rangers.

Hunter Army Airfield plans to demolish the old

Hunter Army Airfield plans to demolish the old Ranger barracks during the next few years.

While the complex construction is complete, another project is already underway at the new facil-

At a ground-breaking ceremony held on March 5, Rudacille announced the construction of a Ranger memorial in the north courtyard of the complex. Funded entirely by private donations, the memorial will honor Rangers who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the nation in combat.

## 'Coping with Water Scarcity,' World Water Day 2007

Angie Eason

Directorate of Public Works

"Coping with Water Scarcity" is the theme for World Water Day 2007. The theme highlights the significance of cooperation and importance of an integrated approach to water resource management of water at both international and local levels. In 1992, the United Nations General Assembly designated March 22 of each year as the World Day for Water, and began observing it in 1993.

Despite the apparent abundance of clean water in the

United States and most of the developed world, more than one billion people around the world lack clean, safe drinking water and more that 2.6 billion lack adequate sanitation services.

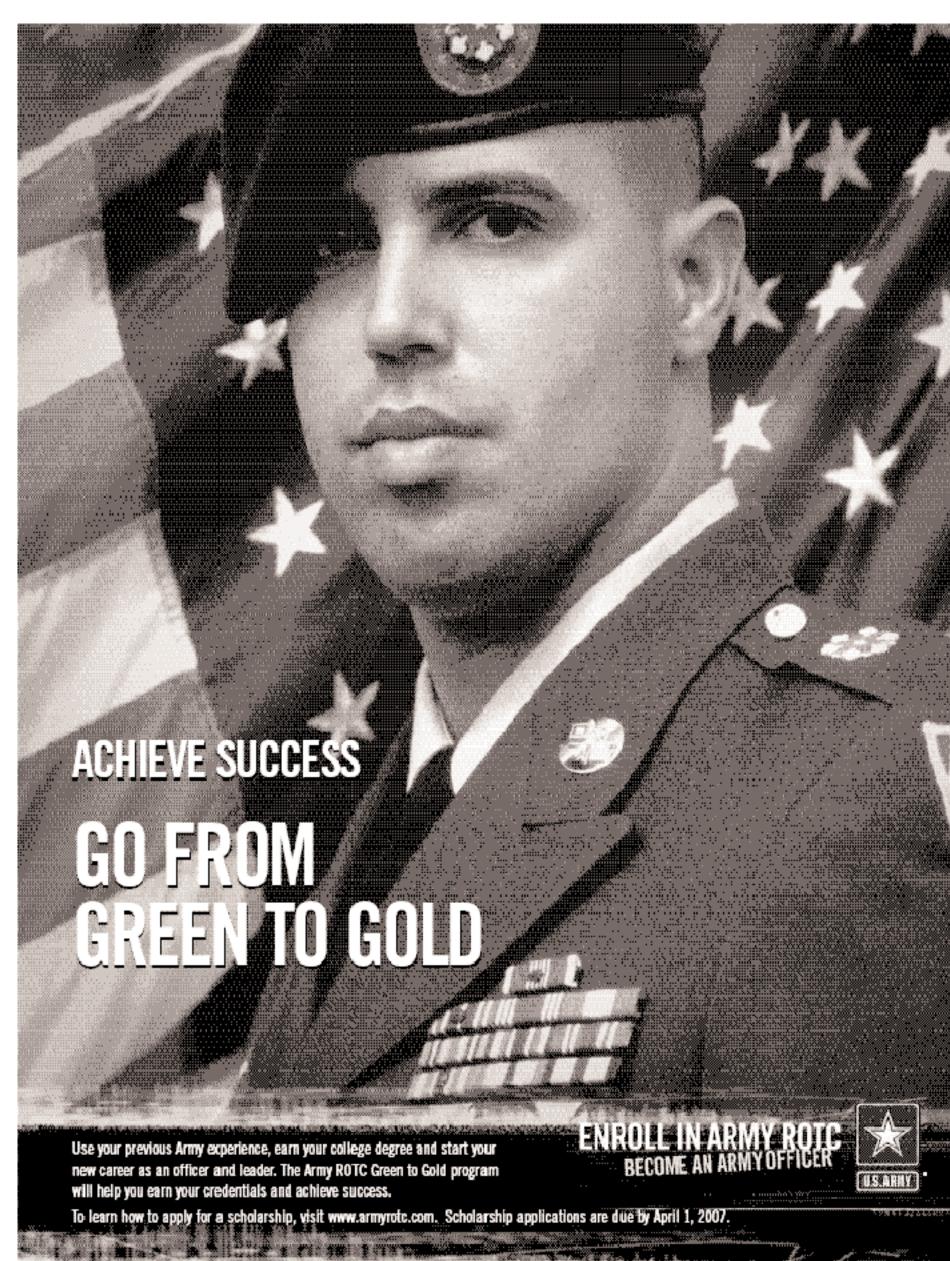
The problem isn't confined to a particular region of the world. A third of the Earth's population lives in "water stressed" countries and that number is expected to rise dramatically over the next two decades. This crisis is worse in developing countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

This extensive water problem is created by a confluence of

factors including climate, geography, lack of water systems and infrastructure and inadequate sanitation, something that 40 percent of the world's population lack access to. Some of these countries have additional problems, including high levels of arsenic and fluoride in drinking water.

The world water crisis is one of the largest public health issues of our time. Nearly 20 percent of the world's population lack access to safe drinking water. The lack of clean, safe drinking water is estimated to kill almost 4500 children per day. In fact, out of the 2.2 million unsafe drinking water

See WATER ———— Page 17A



### Common Core Course to be requirement for Captains' career courses

Army News Service

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. - The Captains' Career Common Core Course will become required for graduation from all branch Captains' Career Courses beginning June 1.

The C5 provides a series of critical skills grounded in leadership, communication, composite risk management, critical reasoning and thinking, and developing a positive command climate.

The skills are intended to better prepare officers for their next ten years of service, and the change is in keeping with the Army Chief of Staff's vision to continue transformation of the Army Officer Education System.

The instruction is in a Web-based interactive multimedia format that facilitates self-paced study. Although completion of the C5 is not a requirement to attend the Captains' Career Course, Soldiers may complete the training before beginning the career course.

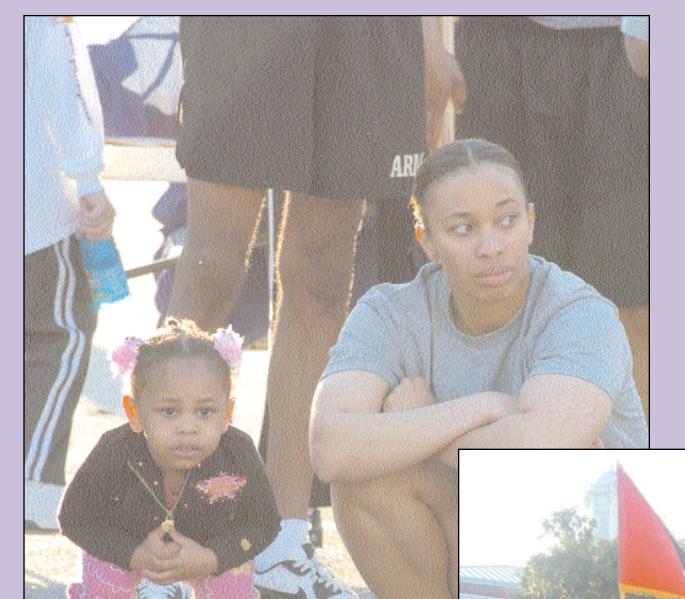
"This gives students a good basis for the beginning of the CCC and relieves them of the requirement while they are at the resident phase," said Lt. Col. Shawn M. Maxwell, C5 coordinator at the Center for Army Leadership, Professional Military Education Division.

officers for company command, as well as battalion-andbrigade level staff positions in combined, joint and multinational environments.

It provides first lieutenants and captains with a common foundation of operational and leadership instruction tied to the officer's specific career field, branch, and functional area

First lieutenants and captains may enroll in the C5 via ATRRS. Eligible officers should contact their career manager to determine specific branch requirements.

More information is available at the Center for Army The curriculum supports preparation of company-grade Leadership's Army Knowledge Online Web site.



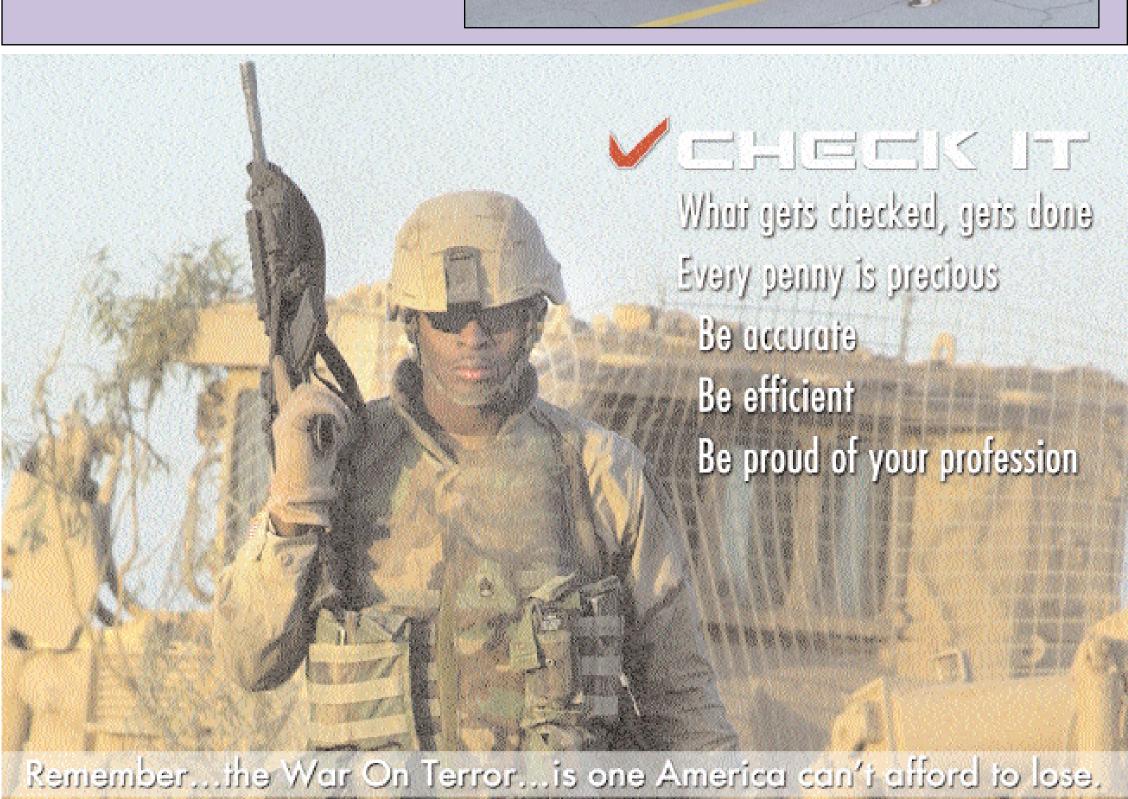
Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Tami Reiman

Above: 2nd Lt. Jeremia Dolberry and her daughter Ariel, who is two-years-old, look on as runners finish the one-mile fun run/walk Saturday in Hinesville.

Right: Twenty-three Soldiers from F Co., 703rd BSB, were joined by Col. Thomas James, 4th BCT commander, to run in a 5K road race also participated in the 5K road race.

4th BCT hits the road at the Hinesville 5K Run

needs, Maxwell said.



3BCT -

of surprise. According to Darrel J. (DJ) Robinson, a functions analyst for the mobile training site, every action the Soldiers made was recorded to allow for a more accurate after action review. This way, the Soldiers can see what mistakes were made. Robinson said this has a larger impact on training, rather than just hearing their mistakes from an observer.

The medical training, instructed by retired U.S. servicemembers, incorporated dummies known as "SIM men" to simulate reallife injuries. The dummies breathed, bled and reacted to the treatment given to them by the Soldiers. The class taught lifesaving procedures such as preventing shock, stopping bleeding and inserting a tube in the throat of a casualty where mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is not an option.

"This is my third tour and I've seen a lot of injuries like the ones in that class," said Staff Sgt. Jerry Stewart, the operations sergeant for the 3rd HBCT's aviation cell. It is mandatory that every Soldier in the 3rd HBCT go to the firing range specific to the weapon they are assigned, after arriving in Kuwait,

before moving into Iraq. Soldiers were required to ensure their personal weapons were zeroed to their individual firing style.

"I had a great time at the ranges I went to," said Pvt. Jeoffrey Glenn, Company E, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd HBCT.

"They made it fun. I'm a (machine) gunner so they gave me 200 rounds and told me to start hitting targets. It was great."

"The training was very beneficial to the Soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Lockett, Troop A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Calvary Regiment, 3rd HBCT.

"A lot of these Soldiers have never been out here before so they need all the training they can get."

In addition to the training in Kuwait, time is given to Soldiers to acclimate to the dry, hot weather associated with the Middle East, where the "Sledgehammer Brigade" will be spending their next deployment.

The brigade's next step is to move to their next area of operation and occupy Butler Range Complex, which is in its beginning stages of construction.



Staff Sgt. Michael Henderson and Cpl. Blake Stephens, 3rd HBCT, demonstrate how to enter a hallway during a class given at the Mobile Mount Site, Camp Buehring, Kuwait, March 19.

#### **GARRISON** -

From Page 11A

"These folks are not just fashionably patriotic," he said. They're out there serving Soldiers regardless of the time or temperature, rather it be 34 or 74 degrees."

Coffman believes that the timing of their interaction is effective. He said Soldiers are met by these volunteers about two to four hours after leaving their families and they need to be encouraged by someone who's not in uniform. Many of them are veterans them-

selves who have served in Viet Nam. "They didn't get support for their military service," said Coffman. "And they don't want them to experience what they had to endure. They want to support these Soldiers and to show their pride.'

Garrison staff members are equally proud of Soldiers and their service.

"These Soldiers are an inspiration because they have such pride in their service," said Beasley. "Many have deployed before and are anxious to return. I hate to see them go, but I'm extremely proud of them and I'm also proud to have a part in their deployment.



Courtesy Photo

Capt. Katy Gibson, Company C, 3rd Brigade Support Battalion pediatrician, brings a small girl injured from an improvised explosive device into Charlie Med, March 21 at Camp Ramadi.

#### 1BCT

Capt. Scott Mras, Co. C, 3rd BSB commander, said despite the huge work-load often demanded of his medics, his Soldiers are ready for whatever they must face.

already had three mass casualty incidents with 15 or more trauma patients," said Mras. "Even on our first day here we had to help the last unit with a 60 -patient mass casualty."

Despite the challenges, long hours, and difficulties associated with serving in a combat hospital

"We've been here a little over a month now and

ties associated with serving in a combat hospital, Mras and the Soldiers working at Charlie Med wouldn't want to be at any other place. "It's stressful, but at the end of the day, we are

proud of what we do," said Spc. Elton Crossland, a medic with Co. C, 3rd BSB. "We know that when they come in we are doing the best we can for (them)."

Crossland said the job he performs here is a lot different than what he performed at his last deployment.

"We see a lot more casualties here in Ramadi, which puts a lot more stress on us," he said. "At the end of the day we feel good though, because we're doing what we're trained to do day in and day out."

As vehicles rush patients to Charlie Med, Mras said all the medics wouldn't want to be anywhere else, "because here is where they perform their jobs of saving lives, treating Soldiers and Iraqis."